

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) A machine-implemented method of controlling an application, said method comprising:

in response to receiving user input at a first instant messaging client and a second instant messaging client, generating user messages at the first instant messaging client and the second instant messaging client, wherein the first instant messaging client has a first conversation user interface and the second instant messaging client has a second conversation user interface;

exchanging the user messages, via an instant messaging system, between the first instant messaging client and the second instant messaging client;

displaying a conversation in the first conversation user interface and the second conversation user interface, wherein said conversation is based on the user messages transferred via the instant messaging system;

in response to user input at the first instant messaging client, generating a control message at the first instant messaging client, wherein the control message is configured to control execution of an application that executes separate from the first instant messaging client;

transferring the control message, via the instant messaging system, between the first instant messaging client and the second instant messaging client; and

in response to receiving the control message, causing results of executing the application as specified by the control message to be reflected in a display provided by the second instant messaging client.

31. (New) A method as recited in Claim 30, further comprising:
determining whether a message received at the second client is one of the user messages or the control message.
32. (New) A method as recited in Claim 30 wherein the step of causing results of executing the application as specified by the control message to be reflected in a display provided by the second instant messaging client comprises playing results of executing the application in a player.
33. (New) A method as recited in Claim 30 wherein the step of causing results of executing the application as specified by the control message to be reflected in a display provided by the second instant messaging client comprises displaying the results of executing the application in a viewer.
34. (New) A method as recited in Claim 30 further comprising arbitrating data received from a third instant messaging client based on executing the application.
35. (New) A method as recited in Claim 30 further comprising, prior to generating the control message, receiving a selection of the application from a list of instant messaging applications at the first instant messaging client.

36. (New) A method as recited in Claim 30 further comprising causing results of executing the application to be reflected in a display provided by the first instant messaging client.

37. (New) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

in response to receiving user input at a first instant messaging client and a second instant messaging client, generating user messages at the first instant messaging client and the second instant messaging client, wherein the first instant messaging client has a first conversation user interface and the second instant messaging client has a second conversation user interface;

exchanging the user messages, via an instant messaging system, between the first instant messaging client and the second instant messaging client;

displaying a conversation in the first conversation user interface and the second conversation user interface, wherein said conversation is based on the user messages transferred via the instant messaging system;

in response to user input at the first instant messaging client, generating a control message at the first instant messaging client, wherein the control message is configured to control execution of an application that executes separate from the first instant messaging client;

transferring the control message, via the instant messaging system, between the first instant messaging client and the second instant messaging client; and

in response to receiving the control message, causing results of executing the application as specified by the control message to be reflected in a display provided by the second instant messaging client.

38. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 37, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the step of determining whether a message received at the second client is one of the user messages or the control message.

39. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 37 wherein the instructions for performing the step of causing results of executing the application as specified by the control message to be reflected in a display provided by the second instant messaging client further comprise instructions for playing results of executing the application in a player.

40. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 37 wherein the instructions for performing the step of causing results of executing the application as specified by the control message to be reflected in a display provided by the second instant messaging client further comprise instructions for displaying the results of executing the application in a viewer.

41. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 37 further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the step of arbitrating data received from a third instant messaging client based on executing the application.

42. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 37 further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the step of:

prior to generating the control message, receiving a selection of the application from a list of instant messaging applications at the first instant messaging client.

43. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 37 further comprising instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the step of causing results of executing the application to be reflected in a display provided by the first instant messaging client.